FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE

TRANSPORTATION-HUD

CO-CHAIR—TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

July 10, 2009

241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610 (202) 225-5136

> 13873 PARK CENTER ROAD SUITE 130 HERNDON, VA 20171 (703) 709–5800 (800) 945–9653 (IN STATE)

110 North Cameron Street Winchester, VA 22601 (540) 667-0990 (800) 850-3463 (In State)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr. Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW Rm 5111 Washington DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

Yesterday I received the enclosed response to my letters to you of March 13, April 23, and May 13 not signed by you, but by Ronald Weich in your Office of Legislative Affairs. His response failed to answer any of the questions posed in my three letters and appears to be merely a summary of the enclosed press releases issued by your office earlier this year, as was the information you submitted for the committee record in response to the April 23 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee hearing. Unfortunately, the transcripts of this hearing have not yet been publicly released.

Frankly, this response is a poor attempt to avoid answering the most basic and relevant questions regarding your plans to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Your response is an insult to the American people who have legitimate questions about your intentions with regards to the transfer, trial, and/or release of Guantanamo detainees into the United States. This, along with your brazen dismissal of a voter intimidation case, I believe points to politicization at the Department of Justice.

I also take this opportunity to remind you of the role of congressional oversight with regard to the executive branch, including your office and department:

The 1946 Legislative Reorganization Act mandated that committees exercise "continuous watchfulness" of the administration of laws and programs under their jurisdiction. (60 Stat. 832, 1946)

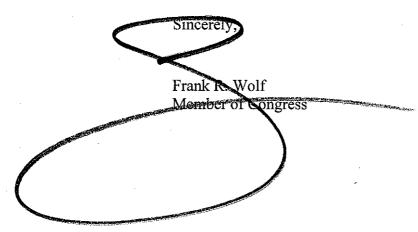
The 1970 Legislative Reorganization Act reaffirmed the oversight function of congressional committees: "... each standing committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, and execution of those laws or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of that committee." (84 Stat. 1156, 1970)

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr. July 10, 2009 Page 2

I continue to find troubling your unwillingness to allow career federal employees to brief members on the backgrounds of the detainees held at Guantanamo Bay. When your office finally allowed the FBI to provide a briefing, your office sent a political handler, Mr. Weich, to prevent the agent from speaking freely. I bring your attention to:

The 1912 Anti-Gag Legislation and Whistleblower Protection Laws for Federal Employees guaranteed that "the right of any persons employed in the civil service... to petition Congress, or any Member thereof, or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to any committee or member thereof, shall not be denied or interfered with." (37 Stat. 555, 1912; codified at 5 U.S.C. § 7211, 1994)

As the ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science, I take seriously the responsibilities of my office to pursue answers to these questions by every means under the law. Given that it took 118 days to receive this cursory response, I will be introducing a Resolution of Inquiry in the House to ensure answers are provided.





U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 9, 2009

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

The President forwarded your letter of May 1, 2009 to the Department of Justice for response because, under the President's Executive Order 13492, the Attorney General has the responsibility for coordinating the interagency review of Guantánamo Bay detainees. We are responding to that letter, as well as to your letters to the Attorney General, dated March 13, April 23, May 13, and July 7, 2009, each of which raises questions about the disposition of the detainees held at Guantánamo.

We appreciate receiving your views on this important subject, and regret our delay in replying to your letters. Some of the issues you raised in these letters were also raised in written questions you posed to the Attorney General following his testimony on FY10 appropriations for the Justice Department, and we have already submitted responses to those questions.

As you know, the President has announced his intention to close the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay by January 2010. To that end, he issued Executive Order 13492 which established an interagency task force and a review panel to determine the appropriate disposition of each detainee held at Guantanamo in light of all relevant facts and circumstances. The President also issued Executive Order 13493, which established an interagency task force to conduct a comprehensive review of the lawful options available to the Government for the disposition of individuals captured or apprehended in connection with armed conflicts and counterterrorism operations.

While we have not been in a position to brief Congress on ongoing Executive Branch deliberations with respect to individual detainees, we were pleased to make available to you and your staff the head of the Guantánamo Detainee Review Task Force to describe the process by which that Task Force is carrying out its work. As he explained, the Attorney General is coordinating an interagency process and comprehensive review of each detainee currently held at Guantánamo to determine an appropriate disposition consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States, as well as the interests of justice.

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf Page Two

We appreciate your concern about the security implications of transferring detainees from immigration detention at Guantánamo Bay to the United States, and we agree that the American people must be reassured that the Government is taking all necessary and appropriate steps to combat terrorism. As Attorney General Holder stated in a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee on May 14, 2009, "We will not release anybody into the United States that we think would pose a danger to the American people."

Moreover, the recently enacted conference report on the Supplemental Appropriations bill (H.R. 2346) limits the circumstances under which individuals detained at Guantánamo may be transferred to the United States or elsewhere. Section 14103 of the conference report precludes the release of Guantánamo detainees into the United States for any reason, and places conditions on the transfer of detainees to the United States for prosecution.

Your letters focus on the circumstances surrounding the Uighur detainees at Guantánamo. As you know, the Uighurs have always been something of an anomaly within the Guantánamo detainee population because they were not present in Afghanistan to take up arms against the United States. As early as 2003, the Bush Administration approved most of the Uighurs for transfer or release from Guantánamo Bay. In 2006, five Uighurs detained at Guantánamo Bay were transferred to Albania for release. Four of them are currently living in Albania; one now lives in Sweden, where he was granted asylum. Last year, the Bush Administration formally abandoned any legal claim that the Uighurs are enemy combatants.

Accordingly, all of the Uighurs currently at Guantánamo must, by operation of law, be transferred or released. The current Administration is committed to ensuring that this is done in a manner that ensures the safety of these individuals and the security of the United States. To that end, four Uighur detainees who had been held at Guantánamo Bay were resettled in Bermuda on June 11, 2009. Efforts to transfer the other Uighur detainees remain ongoing.

As you are aware, decisions have been made about other detainees held previously at Guantánamo. On June 9, 2009, Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian national who had been held at Guantánamo Bay since September 2006, was transferred to the Southern District of New York to face prosecution in federal court pursuant to a March 12, 2001 indictment for the 1998 bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in which over 200 people were killed. Ghailani was safely transferred to the Southern District by the United States Marshals Service and is being housed at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, which has housed numerous terror suspects over the years during their prosecutions in the Southern District of New York.

On June 12, 2009, three Saudi nationals were transferred from Guantánamo Bay to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where they will be subject to appropriate security measures and be required to participate in a rehabilitation program. And on June 10, 2009, two additional detainees held at Guantánamo were transferred, one to Iraq and the other to Chad.

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf Page Three

We have not been able to provide a comprehensive response to all of the questions set forth in your letters because policy deliberations and case-by-case determinations within the Executive Branch are incomplete. Nonetheless, we look forward to working with you and other Members of Congress to address these complex issues in a manner that fully protects the immediate and long-term security interests of the United States.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we can be of assistance regarding this, or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Weich

Assistant Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, June 11, 2009 WWW.USDOJ.GOV AG (202) 514-2007 TDD (202) 514-1888

United States Resettles Four Uighur Detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the Government of Bermuda

Four detainees, Chinese nationals of Uighur ethnicity who had been held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, have been resettled in Bermuda. These detainees, who were subject to release as a result of court orders, had been cleared for release by the prior administration, which determined they would no longer treat them as enemy combatants. The detainees were again cleared for release this year after review by the interagency Guantanamo Review Task Force.

As directed by the President's January 22, 2009, Executive Order, the interagency Guantanamo Review Task Force conducted a comprehensive review of the four, including a threat evaluation, and approved them for resettlement. The detainees left Guantanamo Bay today pursuant to an arrangement between the United States and the Government of Bermuda.

The Uighurs are a Turkic Muslim minority from the Xinjiang province of far-west China. The Uighurs currently at Guantanamo Bay left China and made their way to Afghanistan, where most eventually settled in a camp with other Uighurs opposed to the Chinese government. After the United States conducted aerial strikes in the area in October 2001, the Uighurs from that camp fled to Pakistan and were later apprehended. According to available information, these individuals did not travel to Afghanistan with the intent to take any hostile action against the United States.

This marks the first time since 2006 that the U.S. government has successfully resettled any of the Guantanamo Uighur population. In 2006, five Uighurs were transferred to Albania; there have been no reports of post-resettlement engagement in criminal behavior or terrorist activities.

"By helping accomplish the President's objective of closing Guantanamo, the transfer of these detainees will make America safer," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "We are extremely grateful to the government of Bermuda for its assistance in the successful resettlement of these four detainees, and we commend the leadership they have demonstrated on this important issue."

Since 2002, more than 540 detainees have departed Guantanamo for other countries including Albania, Algeria, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom and Yemen.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, June 11, 2009 WWW.USDOJ.GOV AG (202) 514-2007 TDD (202) 514-1888

United States Transfers Two Guantanamo Detainees to Foreign Nations

The Department today announced that one national of Iraq and one national of Chad have been transferred from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay to their home countries.

As directed by the President's Jan. 22, 2009, Executive Order, the interagency Guantanamo Review Task Force conducted a comprehensive review of each of these cases. As a result of that review, these detainees were approved for transfer from Guantanamo Bay. The transfers were carried out pursuant to arrangements between the United States and the governments of Iraq and Chad.

Last night, Iraqi national Jawad Jabber Sadkhan was transferred to Iraq. Chadian national Mohammed El Gharani was transferred to Chad earlier today. On Jan. 14, 2009, a federal court ordered the U.S. government to take all necessary and appropriate steps to facilitate El Gharani's release from Guantanamo Bay.

"As our review of detainees continues, the support of the international community is critical to the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and the security of our country," said Matthew Olsen, Executive Director of the Guantanamo Review Task Force. "We are grateful for the cooperation of the Governments of Iraq and Chad and for their assistance on the successful transfer of these individuals."

Since 2002, more than 540 detainees have departed Guantanamo for other countries including Albania, Algeria, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom and Yemen.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, June 9, 2009 WWW.USDOJ.GOV

AG (202) 514-2007 TDD (202) 514-1888

Ahmed Ghailani Transferred from Guantanamo Bay to New York for Prosecution on Terror Charges

Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian national who had been held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility since September 2006, arrived early this morning in the Southern District of New York to face criminal charges stemming from his alleged role in the Aug. 7, 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya.

After a thorough review of his case by the interagency Guantanamo Review Task Force, Ghailani was recently referred for criminal prosecution in the Southern District of New York pursuant to a March 12, 2001 superseding indictment against him.

Ghailani was transferred from the custody of the Department of Defense to the Southern District of New York by the U.S. Marshals Service. He is currently in custody at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, which has housed numerous terror suspects over the years during their prosecutions in the Southern District of New York. Ghailani is expected to make his initial appearance in Manhattan federal court later today.

Ghailani faces 286 separate counts in the March 2001 superseding indictment. Among other violations, the superseding indictment charges him with conspiring with Usama bin Laden and other members of al-Qaeda to kill Americans anywhere in the world, as well as separate charges of murder for the deaths of each of the 224 people killed in the U.S. Embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya and various other offenses related to the bombings.

"With his appearance in federal court today, Ahmed Ghailani is being held accountable for his alleged role in the bombing of U.S. Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya and the murder of 224 people," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "The Justice Department has a long history of securely detaining and successfully prosecuting terror suspects through the criminal justice system, and we will bring that experience to bear in seeking justice in this case."

The chart below details the charges against Ghailani and the statutory maximum penalties. The public is reminded that the charges and allegations contained in the superseding indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Count(s)	Description of Charge	Maximum Penalties	
Counts 1 – 6: Conspiracies to Murder, Bomb, and Maim			
1	Conspiracy to Kill U.S. Nationals	Life	

	_		
Conspiracy to Murder, Kidnap, and Maim At Places Outside the United States	Life		
Conspiracy to Murder	Life		
Conspiracy to Use Weapons of Mass Destruction Against U.S. Nationals	Death or life		
Conspiracy to Destroy Buildings and Property of the United States	Life (mandatory minimum of 20 years)		
Conspiracy to Attack National Defense Utilities	10 years		
Counts 7 – 286: The Africa Bombings			
Bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya	Death or life (mandatory minimum of 20 years)		
Bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Death or life (mandatory minimum of 20 years)		
Use and Attempted Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Against U.S. Nationals in Nairobi, Kenya	Death or life		
Use and Attempted Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Against U.S. Nationals in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Death or life		
Murders in Nairobi, Kenya	Death or mandatory life		
Murders in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Death or mandatory life		
Murder of U.S. Employees in Nairobi, Kenya	Death or mandatory life		
Attempted Murder of U.S. Employees in Nairobi, Kenya	20 years		
Murder of U.S. Employees in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Death or mandatory life		
Attempted Murder of U.S. Employees in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	20 years		
Murder of Internationally Protected Persons in Nairobi, Kenya	Death or mandatory life		
Attempted Murder of Internationally Protected Persons in Nairobi, Kenya	20 years		
Attempted Murder of Internationally Protected Persons in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	20 years		
	Places Outside the United States Conspiracy to Murder Conspiracy to Use Weapons of Mass Destruction Against U.S. Nationals Conspiracy to Destroy Buildings and Property of the United States Conspiracy to Attack National Defense Utilities 286: The Africa Bombings Bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya Bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Use and Attempted Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Against U.S. Nationals in Nairobi, Kenya Use and Attempted Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Against U.S. Nationals in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Murders in Nairobi, Kenya Murders in Nairobi, Kenya Murder of U.S. Employees in Nairobi, Kenya Attempted Murder of U.S. Employees in Nairobi, Kenya Murder of U.S. Employees in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Attempted Murder of U.S. Employees in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Murder of Internationally Protected Persons in Nairobi, Kenya Attempted Murder of Internationally Protected Persons in Nairobi, Kenya Attempted Murder of Internationally Protected Persons in Nairobi, Kenya Attempted Murder of Internationally Protected Persons in Nairobi, Kenya		

284	Using and Carrying An Explosive During the Commission of A Felony	10 years consecutive
285	Using and Carrying A Dangerous Device During the Bombing Of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya	30 years consecutive
286	Using and Carrying A Dangerous Device During the Bombing Of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Life or 30 years consecutive

Fact Sheet: Prosecuting and Detaining Terror Suspects in the U.S. Criminal Justice System

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, May 21, 2009 WWW.USDOJ.GOV

AG (202) 514-2007 TDD (202) 514-1888

Accused East Africa Embassy Bomber Held at Guantanamo Bay to Be Prosecuted in U.S. Federal Court

Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian national who has been held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility since September 2006, will be prosecuted in federal court in the United States pursuant to the March 12, 2001 superseding indictment currently pending against him in the Southern District of New York

In accordance with the President's Jan. 22, 2009 Executive Order, which called for a review of all Guantanamo detainees and the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility within a year, the interagency Guantanamo Review Task Force conducted a thorough review of Ghailani's case. As a result of that review, Ghailani's case was referred to the Justice Department for prosecution pursuant to the superseding indictment against him in the Southern District of New York.

"By prosecuting Ahmed Ghailani in federal court, we will ensure that he finally answers for his alleged role in the bombing of our embassies in Tanzania and Kenya," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "This administration is committed to keeping the American people safe and upholding the rule of law, and by closing Guantanamo and bringing terrorists housed there to justice we will make our nation stronger and safer."

Ghailani was first indicted on Dec. 16, 1998, by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of New York for conspiring with Osama bin Laden and other members of al-Qaeda to kill Americans overseas and for his role in the Aug. 7, 1998, bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salam, Tanzania, which killed at least eleven people and caused injuries to at least 85 people.

Ghailani has since been charged in several superseding indictments in the Southern District of New York. He currently stands accused in a March 12, 2001, superseding indictment with 286 different counts, including charges related to his role in the murder of more than 200 people in the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya, as well as his participation in an al-Qaeda conspiracy to murder bomb, and maim U.S. civilians anywhere in the world.

Among other things, the superseding indictment alleges that Ghailani assisted in the purchase of the Nissan truck as well as the oxygen and acetylene tanks that were used in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania. He is further alleged to have participated in loading boxes of TNT, cylinder tanks, batteries, detonators, fertilizer and sand bags into the back of the truck in the weeks immediately before the bombing. Ghailani departed Africa for Pakistan the night before the bombing.

Ghailani was captured in July 2004. In September 2006, he and several other "high value detainees" were transferred to Guantanamo Bay. Ghailani has remained in Defense Department custody at Guantanamo Bay since that time.

On March 31, 2008, the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Military Commissions swore charges

against Ghailani under the Military Commissions Act for his alleged role in the 1998 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania and for his alleged service to al-Qaeda after the bombing, including serving as a document forger, physical trainer at an al-Qaeda camp, and as a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden.

Ghailani was charged with the following substantive offenses: murder in violation of the Law of War, murder of protected persons, attacking civilians, attacking civilian objects, intentionally causing serious bodily injury, and destruction of property in violation of the Law of War and Terrorism. He was also charged with conspiracy to commit all of the above offenses, as well as providing material support to terrorism. On Oct. 3, 2008, these charges were referred to trial by military commission.

In January 2009, a military commissions judge issued a stay in the military commission trial involving Ghailani. The Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Military Commissions recently filed a motion seeking an additional 120-day continuance in Ghailani's military commissions case.

The public is reminded that the charges contained in a criminal indictment are mere allegations and each defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, May 15, 2009 WWW.USDOJ.GOV AG (202) 514-2007 TDD (202) 514-1888

United States Transfers Lakhdar Boumediene to France

Lakhdar Boumediene, an Algerian national who had been held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility since 2002, has been transferred to France.

As directed by the President's Jan. 22, 2009, Executive Order, the interagency Guantanamo Review Task Force conducted a comprehensive review of Boumediene's case. As a result of that review, Boumediene was approved for transfer to France, which was carried out today pursuant to an arrangement between the United States and France.

Boumediene was involved in the Supreme Court case, *Boumediene v. Bush*, which in June 2008 established the writ of habeas corpus for detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay. In November 2008, a federal court ordered the U.S. government to take all necessary and appropriate steps to facilitate the release of Boumediene from Guantanamo Bay. He is the second Guantanamo Bay detainee to be transferred to a foreign country following consideration by the Guantanamo Review Task Force.

"As we continue to make progress with our review of detainees, the assistance of our international allies is critical to the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay," said Matthew Olsen, Executive Director of the Guantanamo Review Task Force. "We are extremely grateful to the French Government and the European Union for their assistance on the successful transfer of Lakhdar Boumediene and we commend the leadership they have demonstrated on this important issue."

Since 2002, approximately 540 detainees have departed Guantanamo for other countries including Albania, Algeria, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom and Yemen.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, February 23, 2009 WWW.USDOJ.GOV OPA (202) 514-2007 TDD (202) 514-1888

United States Transfers Binyam Mohammed to United Kingdom

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today announced the transfer to the United Kingdom of Binyam Mohammed, an Ethiopian national and former resident of the United Kingdom who had been held at the Guantanamo detention facility since 2004.

As directed by the Executive Order issued by President Obama on January 22, 2009, an interagency panel has reviewed Mohammed's case and determined that his transfer, pursuant to an arrangement between the United States and the United Kingdom, is consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice.

"The friendship and assistance of the international community is vitally important as we work to close Guantanamo, and we greatly appreciate the efforts of the British government to work with us on the transfer of Binyam Mohammed," said Attorney General Eric Holder.

Mohammed is the first Guantanamo detainee to be transferred under the review of all Guantanamo detainees directed by the President. He departed Guantanamo aboard a United Kingdom aircraft Sunday night and arrived in the United Kingdom today.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, February 20, 2009 WWW.USDOJ.GOV AG (202) 514-2007 TDD (202) 514-1888

Attorney General Appoints Executive Director to Lead New Task Force on Review of Guantanamo Bay Detainees

WASHINGTON – Attorney General Eric Holder today announced the appointment of an Executive Director to lead a new interagency task force charged with continued implementation of the President's Jan. 22 Executive Order calling for an immediate review of the status of individuals currently detained at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

The Executive Director, Matthew G. Olsen, will lead the Guantanamo Detainee Review Task Force, which is responsible for assembling and examining relevant information and making recommendations regarding the proper disposition of each individual currently detained at Guantanamo Bay.

In accordance with the President's Order, the Task Force will consider whether it is possible to transfer or release detained individuals consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States; evaluate whether the government should seek to prosecute detained individuals for crimes they may have committed; and, if none of those options are possible, the Task Force will recommend other lawful means for disposition of the detained individuals.

The Order provides that the Attorney General shall coordinate this review in conjunction with the Secretaries of Defense, State, and Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in order for the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay to be closed within one year from the date of the Executive Order.

"As a leader of the Department's National Security Division and 12-year career federal prosecutor, Mr. Olsen has the experience and judgment to lead the team's evaluation of these individual cases," said Attorney General Holder. "We've established a solid framework for the administration to make the right decision on each individual detainee — decisions that will most effectively serve the interests of justice and the national security and foreign policy objectives of the United States."

As Executive Director for the detention review process, Mr. Olsen will be responsible for managing the consideration and disposition of individual detainee cases as set forth in the President's Order. He will supervise review teams consisting of representatives from the Justice Department and the other agencies identified in the President's Order.

These multi-agency teams will conduct the specific detainee reviews and develop options and recommendations for the Executive Director to present to a Review Panel consisting of senior-level officials from each of the relevant Departments and agencies who are authorized to make decisions as to the disposition of each detainee. Review Panel members will be responsible for ensuring that each department or agency devotes the necessary resources so that the Task Force can conduct this review and enable closure of the facility within the one-year time frame required under the Executive Order.

Until his appointment today, Mr. Olsen served as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for National

Security, where he managed the Justice Department's National Security Division. Previously, as Deputy Assistant Attorney General, he helped establish the National Security Division in 2006 and supervised the Department's intelligence operations and oversight.

###